

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2000-008074

(43)Date of publication of application : 11.01.2000

(51)Int.Cl.

C11C 3/10
A23D 9/007
A23K 1/16
A23L 1/30
A61K 31/23
C07C 69/30
G01N 33/50
// C12P 7/64

(21)Application number : 10-173017

(71)Applicant : SUNTORY LTD

(22)Date of filing : 19.06.1998

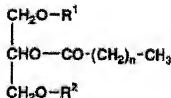
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(54) NEW TRIGLYCERIDE AND COMPOSITION CONTAINING THE SAME

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a new triglyceride having a triglyceride structure similar to that of a component in human mother's milk and useful for preparing standardized milks for immature babies and pregnant women, etc. by introducing a specific saturated or unsaturated fatty acid residue to the specified position of glycerol.

SOLUTION: This compound is expressed by the formula [R1 and R2 are each a 18-22C unsaturated fatty acid-originated acyl group which may be oxidized, provided that at least one of R1 and R2 is an acyl originated from an ω 6, ω 9 or ω 3-unsaturated fatty acid; (n) is 14-16], for example, 1,3-diarachidonyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride. The compound of the formula is obtained by allowing a lipase acting only on the 1 and 3-ester bonds of a triglyceride to act on the triglyceride in which a 16-18C fatty acid is clearly bonded to its 2-position and subsequently subjecting the product to an esterification or transesterification reaction with the ω 6, ω 9 or ω 3-unsaturated fatty acid or its ester added to the reaction system.



(51) Int.Cl. ⁷	識別記号	F I	テマコード* (参考)
C 1 1 C 3/10		C 1 1 C 3/10	
A 2 3 D 9/007		A 2 3 K 1/16	3 0 1 H
A 2 3 K 1/16	3 0 1	A 2 3 L 1/30	Z
A 2 3 L 1/30		A 6 1 K 31/23	ADN
A 6 1 K 31/23	ADN	C 0 7 C 69/30	
審査請求 未請求 請求項の数11 O L (全 11 頁) 最終頁に続く			

(21) 出願番号 特願平10-173017

(22) 出願日 平成10年6月19日 (1998. 6. 19)

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(54) 【発明の名称】 新規なトリグリセリド及びそれを含む組成物

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 人の母乳型のトリグリセリド構造と考えられている、トリグリセリドの2位が炭素数16～18の飽和脂肪酸であり、1及び3位に結合した不飽和脂肪酸の少なくともひとつが ω 6、 ω 9又は ω 3系不飽和脂肪酸である、構造が明確に特定されている新規なトリグリセリドおよびこの新規なトリグリセリドを含む組成物の提供。

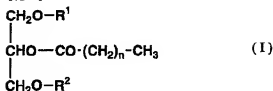
【解決手段】 2位に炭素数16～18の飽和脂肪酸が結合していることが明らかになっているグリセリドを用い、1、3位のエステル結合に特異的に作用するリパーゼと、 ω 6、 ω 9又は ω 3系の不飽和脂肪酸または脂肪酸エステルとを作用させ、1及び3位の脂肪酸のみをエステル交換反応によって製造する。

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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 次の一般式 (I) :

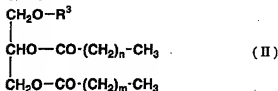
【化1】



(ここで、 R^1 及び R^2 は、炭素数18~22の不飽和脂肪酸のアシル基を表し、このアシル基は酸化されていてもよく、そして n は14~16の整数を表す)で示され、 R^1 又は R^2 の少なくともひとつは $\omega 6$ 、 $\omega 9$ 又は $\omega 3$ 系不飽和脂肪酸であることを特徴とするトリグリセリド。

【請求項2】 次の一般式 (II) :

【化2】



(ここで、 R^3 は、炭素数18~22の不飽和脂肪酸のアシル基を表し、このアシル基は酸化されていてもよく、そして n は14~16の整数、 m は2~16の整数を表す)で示されるトリグリセリド。

【請求項3】 酸化されたアシル基がヒドロキシ化、エポキシ化又はヒドロキシエポキシ化されたアシル基であることを特徴とする請求項1または2記載のトリグリセリド。

【請求項4】 炭素数18~22の不飽和脂肪酸が、

9, 12-オクタデカジエン酸 (リノール酸) 18:2, $\omega 6$ 16:3, 12-オクタデカトリエン酸 (γ -リノレン酸) 18:3, $\omega 6$ 8, 11, 14-エイコサトリエン酸 (ジホモ- γ -リノレン酸) 20:3, $\omega 6$ 5, 8, 11, 14-エイコサテトラエン酸 (アラキドン酸) 20:4, $\omega 6$ 7, 10, 13, 16-ドコサテトラエン酸 22:4, $\omega 6$ 4, 7, 10, 13, 16-ドコサペンタエン酸 22:5, $\omega 6$ 6, 9-オクタデカジエン酸 18:2, $\omega 9$ 8, 11-エイコサジエン酸 20:2, $\omega 9$ 5, 8, 11-エイコサトリエン酸 (ミード酸) 20:3, $\omega 9$ 9, 12, 15-オクタデカトリエン酸 (α -リノレン酸) 18:3, $\omega 3$ 6, 9, 12, 15-オクタデカテトラエン酸 (ステアリン酸) 18:4, $\omega 3$ 11, 14, 17-エイコサトリエン酸 (ジホモ- α -リノレン酸) 20:3, $\omega 3$

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8, 11, 14, 17-エイコサテトラエン酸 20:4, $\omega 3$ 5, 8, 11, 14, 17-エイコサペンタエン酸 20:5, $\omega 3$ 7, 10, 13, 16, 19-ドコサペンタエン酸 22:5, $\omega 3$ 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19-ドコサヘキサエン酸 22:6, $\omega 3$

からなる群から選ばれる不飽和脂肪酸である、請求項1または2記載のトリグリセリド。

【請求項5】 次のいずれかのトリグリセリド: 1, 3-ジアラキドニル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1-アラキドニル-3-ドコサヘキサノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1-アラキドニル-3-オクタノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1-アラキドニル-3-オクタノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1, 3-ジドコサヘキサノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1- (ジホモ- γ -リノレノイル)-3-ドコサヘキサノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1-ドコサヘキサノイル-3-オクタノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1-アラキドニル-3- (ジホモ- γ -リノレノイル)-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1- (ジホモ- γ -リノレノイル)-3-オクタノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1, 3-ビス (ジホモ- γ -リノレノイル)-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1, 3-ビス (5, 8, 11-エイコサトリエノイル)-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1- (5, 8, 11-エイコサトリエノイル)-3-オクタノイル-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、1-アラキドニル-3- (5, 8, 11-エイコサトリエノイル)-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド、又は1-ドコサヘキサノイル-3- (5, 8, 11-エイコサトリエノイル)-2-パルミトイルトリグリセリド。

【請求項6】 請求項1乃至5のいずれか1項に記載のトリグリセリドを特別の栄養需要に応じて配合してなる食品組成物。

【請求項7】 前記食品組成物が、機能性食品、栄養補助食品、未熟児用調製乳、乳児用調製乳、乳児用食品、妊産婦用食品又は老人用食品であることを特徴とする請求項6記載の食品組成物。

【請求項8】 請求項1乃至5のいずれか1項に記載のトリグリセリドを配合してなる動物用飼料。

【請求項9】 請求項1乃至5のいずれか1項に記載のトリグリセリドの少なくとも1種を含有し、場合により経口、腸内又は非経口投与に適した中性の担体を混合した治療用栄養製品。

【請求項10】 請求項1乃至5のいずれか1項に記載のトリグリセリドの少なくとも1種を含有した医薬品組成物。

【請求項11】 請求項1乃至5のいずれか1項に記載のトリグリセリドからなる分析用標準試薬。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は新しいトリグリセリドおよびそれを含む組成物に関するもので、特にトリグ

リセリドの2位に炭素数16~18の飽和脂肪酸を有し、1及び3位に ω 6、 ω 9及び/又は ω 3系の不飽和脂肪酸を有するトリグリセリドに関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】我々の摂取している脂質の大部分は中性脂肪であり、トリグリセリドの1、2及び3位に種々の脂肪酸がエステル結合したトリグリセリドの混合物である。そして、脂肪酸の結合位置の違いにより、その吸収性や生理活性が異なることが指摘されており、トリグリセリドの決まった位置に特定の脂肪酸を結合させた脂質（構造脂質）が、最近、特に注目されている。

【0003】例えば、特公4-12920には、トリグリセリドの2位に炭素数8~14の脂肪酸が結合し、1及び3位に炭素数が18以上の脂肪酸が結合した消化吸収性の良いトリグリセリドが開示されている。また、2-モノグリセリドが人の生体に最も吸収され易い形態であることが知られていることから、特公5-87497には、2位に生理機能を有する ω 3又は ω 6系高度不飽和脂肪酸を結合させ、1及び3位に消化管の酵素により容易に加水分解される飽和脂肪酸を結合させたトリグリセリドが開示されている。しかし、これらには人の母乳中の不飽和脂肪酸及び/又は当該不飽和脂肪酸を構成脂肪酸とするトリグリセリドとの関係については開示も示唆もされていない。

【0004】一方、脂肪酸の生理機能に目を向けると、近年、アラキドン酸及びドコサヘキサエン酸が注目されている。これら脂肪酸は、母乳中に含まれており、乳児の発育に役立つとの報告（「Advances in Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Research」, Elsevier Science Publishers, 1993, pp.261-264）や、胎児の身長や脳の発育に重要であるとの報告（Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 90, 1073-1077 (1993), Lancet, 344, 1319-1322 (1994)）がある。

【0005】そして、いくつかの公的機関から推奨摂取量が公表され（未熟児：アラキドン酸60、ドコサヘキサエン酸40；正常児：アラキドン酸20、ドコサヘキサエン酸20mg/kg体重/日（WHO-FAO (1994)）、ヨーロッパの数か国では既にドコサヘキサエン酸と併せて酸酵生産したアラキドン酸をトリグリセリドとして配合した未熟児用調製乳が市販されている。しかし、調製乳に加えたトリグリセリドのアラキドン酸及び/又はドコサヘキサエン酸の結合位置に関しては何ら考慮されていない。

【0006】人の母乳中のトリグリセリド構造は、トリグリセリドの2位にパルミチン酸（16:0）が結合する割合が高く、1及び3位には高度不飽和脂肪酸あるいは中鎖脂肪酸が結合する割合が高いと推定されている（Christie, W.W. (1986) The Positional Distribution of Fatty Acids in Triglycerides. Analysis of Oils and Fats in (Hamilton, R.J., and Russell, J.B., eds.) p. 313-339, Elsevier/Applied Science, London) が、

これはトリグリセリドの脂肪酸分析の結果からの類推に過ぎず、いまだ人の母乳中のトリグリセリドの単離、構造解析は行われていない。

【0007】また、前述のように脂肪酸組成を母乳の組成に近付けるために酸酵法で生産されたアラキドン酸含有トリグリセリドが調製乳に加えられているが、このアラキドン酸含有トリグリセリドの構造は、パルミチン酸を始めとする飽和脂肪酸が1及び3位に結合し、不飽和脂肪酸は2位に結合する割合が高いもので（J.J. Myher, A. Kuksis, K. Geher, P.W. Park, and D.A. Diersen-Schade, Lipids 31, 207-215 (1996)）、人の母乳中のトリグリセリドの構造として推定されているものとは異なっている。

【0008】したがって、人の母乳型トリグリセリド構造と推定されている脂質、つまり、トリグリセリドの2位に炭素数16~18の飽和脂肪酸が結合し、1及び3位に高度不飽和脂肪酸又は中鎖脂肪酸が結合した構造が明確に確認されている構造脂質の開発が強く望まれている。

【0009】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】従って本発明は、トリグリセリドの2位が炭素数16~18の飽和脂肪酸であり、1及び3位に不飽和脂肪酸が結合し、この不飽和脂肪酸の少なくともひとつが ω 6、 ω 9又は ω 3系不飽和脂肪酸である新規なトリグリセリド、又はトリグリセリドの2位が炭素数16~18の飽和脂肪酸であり、1及び3位の方が炭素数が4~18の飽和脂肪酸であり、そしてもう一方が ω 6、 ω 9又は ω 3系不飽和脂肪酸である新規なトリグリセリドおよびこの新規なトリグリセリドを含む組成物を提供しようとするものである。

【0010】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者等は上記の課題を解決するために鋭意研究した結果、2位に炭素数16~18の飽和脂肪酸が結合していることが明らかにしているグリセリドを用い、1、3位のエステル結合に特異的に作用するリパーゼと、 ω 6、 ω 9又は ω 3系の不飽和脂肪酸または脂肪酸エステルとを作用させ、1及び3位の脂肪酸のみをエステル交換反応によって ω 6、 ω 9及び/又は ω 3系の不飽和脂肪酸とすることによって、目的とする人の母乳型と推定されているトリグリセリドを製造することができることを見出し、さらに得られたトリグリセリドと人の母乳から得たトリグリセリドを比較することによって、人の母乳中にはトリグリセリドの2位に炭素数16~18の飽和脂肪酸が結合し、1及び3位に高度不飽和脂肪酸が結合した構造のトリグリセリドが間違いなく存在していることを初めて明らかにして本発明を完成した。

【0011】

【発明の実施の形態】本発明は、新規なトリグリセリドと当該トリグリセリドを用いた食品組成物、動物用飼

【0021】たとえば、2位が飽和脂肪酸で1及び3位

のいずれかに不飽和脂肪酸が結合したトリグリセリドとして、クリプトコデニウム (*Cryptocodium*) 属、スラウストキトリウム (*Thraustochytrium*) 属、シソキトリウム (*Schizochytrium*) 属、ウルクニア (*Ulkenia*) 属、ジャボノキトリウム (*Japonochytrium*) 属、ハリフォリス (*Haliphthorus*) 属の微生物を培養して得られた油脂が利用できる。

【0022】これらからは、例えば1、2-ジパルミトイル-3-ドコサヘキサシルトリグリセリドを単離することができ、このトリグリセリドを基質に1、3位特異的リパーゼを作用させ、 ω 3、 ω 6又は ω 9系不飽和脂肪酸もしくはその脂肪酸エステルとエステル交換させると、ドコサヘキサエン酸はエステル交換されず、1位のパルミチン酸のみが不飽和脂肪酸とエステル交換される。不飽和脂肪酸としてアラキドン酸を用いた場合には、1及び3位的一方にドコサヘキサエン酸が結合し、他方にアラキドン酸が結合し、2位にパルミチン酸が結合したトリグリセリドが製造できる。

【0023】本発明には、トリグリセリドの1、3位特異的リパーゼを触媒として用いることができ、特に限定されるものではないが、例えば、リゾプス (*Rhizopus*) 属、リゾムコール (*Rhizomucor*) 属、ムコール (*Mucor*) 属、ペニシリウム (*Penicillium*) 属、アスペルギルス (*Aspergillus*) 属、フミコラ (*Humicola*) 属、フザリウム (*Fusarium*) 属などの微生物が生産するリパーゼ、ブタ脾臓リパーゼなどが挙げられる。かかるリパーゼについては、市販のものを用いることができる。

【0024】例えば、リゾプス・デレマー (*Rhizopus delemar*) のリパーゼ (田辺製薬 (株) 製; タリパーゼ)、リゾムコール・ミイハイ (*Rhizomucor miehei*) のリパーゼ (ノボ・ノルディスク (株) 製; リボザイム DM)、アスペルギルス・ニガー (*Aspergillus niger*) のリパーゼ (天野製薬 (株) 製; リパーゼA)、フミコラ・ランギノサ (*Humicola lanuginosa*) のリパーゼ (ノボ・ノルディスク (株) 製; リボラーゼ)、ムコール・ジャバニカス (*Mucor javanicus*) のリパーゼ (天野製薬 (株) 製; リパーゼM)、フザリウム・ヘテロスポラム (*Fusarium heterosporum*) のリパーゼ等が挙げられる。これらのリパーゼの使用形態はそのまま用いても良く、また、セライトやイオン交換樹脂、セラムックス担体などに固定化したリパーゼを用いてもよい。

【0025】本反応系に加える水分量は極めて重要で、水をまったく含まない場合はエステル交換が進行せず、また、水分量が多い場合は加水分解が起こり、トリグリセリドの回収率が低下したり、生成した部分グリセリドでは自発的なアシル基転移が起こり、2位の飽和脂肪酸が1位あるいは3位に転移する。従って、結合水を持たない固定化酵素を用いたとき、主反応を行う前に、まず、水を添加した基質を用いて酵素を活性化し、主反応

では水を添加していない基質を用いると効果的である。パッチ反応で活性化するには、加えた酵素量の0~1、000% (重量%) の水を含む基質を用いて酵素を前処理し、またカラム法で活性化するには、水飽和の基質を連続的に流すことよい。

【0026】例えば、セライト又はセラミックス担体に固定化したリゾプス・デレマー (*Rhizopus delemar*) のリパーゼ (田辺製薬 (株) 製; タリパーゼ) を用いてパッチ反応で活性化する時の水分量は、加えた酵素量の10~200% (重量%) である。しかし、エステル交換反応の活性化に必要な水分量是用いる酵素の種類により大きく左右され、例えば、リゾムコール・ミイハイ (*Rhizomucor miehei*) のリパーゼ (ノボ・ノルディスク (株) 製; リボザイム DM) であれば、ほとんど水分を必要とせず、むしろ過剰の水を除去しなければならない。過剰水の除去は主反応を妨害しないトリグリセリドを基質として選択し、これを固定化酵素で加水分解することよい。

【0027】パッチ反応におけるリパーゼの使用量は反応条件によって適宜決定すれば良く、特に制限されるものではないが、例えばセライトやセラミックス担体に固定化したリゾプス・デレマー (*Rhizopus delemar*) のリパーゼ、あるいはリゾムコール・ミイハイ (*Rhizomucor miehei*) のリパーゼを用いたときには、反応混液の1~30% (重量%) が適量である。

【0028】パッチ反応におけるエステル交換反応は、以下の方法により行う。すなわち、2位に炭素数が16~18の飽和脂肪酸が結合したトリグリセリドに、 ω 3、 ω 6又は ω 9系不飽和脂肪酸あるいはその脂肪酸エステルを加える。脂肪酸エステルとしては、例えばメチルエステル、エチルエステル、プロピルエステル、ブチルエステルなどを用いることができる。原料として用いるトリグリセリド/脂肪酸またはトリグリセリド/脂肪酸エステル比は1:0.5~2:0が適量である。この基質に適当量 (通常5,000~50,000U/g; ここで、リパーゼ1Uとは、オリブ油を基質として用い、1分間に μ molの脂肪酸を遊離させる酵素量である) の活性化または脱水した1、3位特異的リパーゼを加え、攪拌または振盪しながら20~70℃で2~100時間エステル交換反応を行えばよい。

【0029】上記固定化酵素は繰り返し使用することができる。すなわち、反応後固定化酵素だけを反応器内に残し、反応液を新たに調製した基質と交換することにより反応を継続することができる。また、カラム法によるエステル交換反応は、酵素1g当り、0.05~20ml/hrで基質を連続的に流すことよい。また、エステル交換反応を繰り返し行うことにより、目的のトリグリセリド含量を高めることができる。すなわち、 ω 3、 ω 6又は ω 9系不飽和脂肪酸もしくはその脂肪酸エステルの存在下に、トリグリセリドの1、3位特異的リパーゼを作用

用させて、1及び3位の脂肪酸が ω 3、 ω 6及び/又は ω 9系不飽和脂肪酸にエステル交換された反応液を得る。

【0030】次に、該反応液から後述する方法によりトリグリセリドを精製し、該精製トリグリセリドを原料として再度 ω 3、 ω 6又は ω 9系不飽和脂肪酸またはその脂肪酸エステルでエステル交換反応を行う。この繰り返しエステル化反応により目的のトリグリセリド含有量を段階的に高めることができ、繰り返し回数は2〜5回が好ましい。

【0031】従来の固定化リパーゼを用いたエステル交換反応では、副反応として起こる加水分解反応により生成した部分グリセリドの2位に結合していた脂肪酸のアシル基転移が誘発された。しかし、本発明では、加水分解反応をほぼ完全に抑えることができ、部分グリセリドの生成量は1%程度であり、従来の問題点を解決することができた。また、基質に含まれている水分含量が数千ppm以下であれば、副反応として起こる加水分解を無視することができ、基質中に含まれる水分量を精密制御する必要がないという特徴を有している。

【0032】さらに、従来の固定化酵素を用いた有機溶媒中での反応あるいは50℃以上の反応では数回の使用で酵素活性が低下したのに対して、本発明のうち有機溶媒を含まない反応系中で45℃以下で反応させる場合には酵素の失活が起こらず、パッチ反応で数十回以上、カラム反応で100日以上連続して酵素を使用することも可能である。

【0033】本発明では、基質が単純であるために、反応により得られたトリグリセリドは数種の分子種から構成される。そこで、液体クロマトグラフィー、分子蒸留、流下膜蒸留、精密蒸留などの常法あるいはその組み合わせにより、目的のトリグリセリドを容易に単離することができる。本発明で製造する反応後のトリグリセリドは、1位及び/又は3位に不飽和脂肪酸が結合したトリグリセリドであり、該トリグリセリド、未反応原料、未反応の不飽和脂肪酸または脂肪酸エステル及びエステル交換されて生じた原料のトリグリセリドの1及び/又は3位に結合していた脂肪酸または該脂肪酸エステルとの混合物として存在している。

【0034】そこで、目的の1位及び/又は3位に不飽和脂肪酸が結合し、2位に炭素数が16〜18の飽和脂肪酸が結合したトリグリセリドの精製は、アルカリ脱酸、水蒸気蒸留、分子蒸留、流下膜蒸留、真空精密蒸留、カラムクロマトグラフィー、溶剤抽出、膜分離のいずれか又はこれらを組み合わせることにより、上記のエステル交換された脂肪酸及び未反応の不飽和脂肪酸を除去することによって行うことができる。

【0035】本発明で得られる、2位にパルミチン酸が結合し、1及び3位にアラキドン酸及び/又はドコサヘキサエン酸が結合したトリグリセリドは、人の母乳中の

トリグリセリドの構造であると考えられることから、未熟児用調製乳、乳児用調製乳、フォローアップ乳あるいは妊産婦・授乳期向け調製乳等に有効に使用することができる。即ち、2位にパルミチン酸が結合し、1及び3位にアラキドン酸及び/又はドコサヘキサエン酸が結合した本発明のトリグリセリドのひつと未熟児用調製乳、乳児用調製乳、あるいはフォローアップ乳等の調製乳の製造工程において又は製品に添加することにより、より人の母乳に近い調製乳を得ることができる。

【0036】本発明では、1位及び3位に ω 6系、 ω 9系または ω 3系の同一の不飽和脂肪酸が結合したトリグリセリドが得られ、これらは人の母乳中のトリグリセリドの構造であると考えられることから、それぞれ ω 6系、 ω 9系および ω 3系の不飽和脂肪酸の供給源として十分に有用であるが、さらに本発明では、1位と3位に ω 6系、 ω 9系または ω 3系の異なる不飽和脂肪酸が結合したトリグリセリド、例えば1位に ω 6系のアラキドン酸が結合し3位に ω 3系のドコサヘキサエン酸が結合したトリグリセリドが得られることにより有用性が著しく増大する。即ち、例示した1位に ω 6系のアラキドン酸が結合し3位に ω 3系のドコサヘキサエン酸が結合したトリグリセリドであれば、一つのトリグリセリドでアラキドン酸(ω 6系)とドコサヘキサエン酸(ω 3系)の2種類の不飽和脂肪酸を同時に供給することが可能となる。

【0037】本発明のトリグリセリドの利用として、未熟児・乳児を対象にした調製乳以外にも、例えば、牛乳、豆乳などの乳製品や、油脂を使った食品への添加が考えられる。油脂を使った食品としては、例えば、肉、魚、ナッツ等の油脂を含む天然食品、中華料理、ラーメン、スープ等の調理時に油脂を加える食品、天ぷら、フライ、油揚げ、チャーハン、ドーナツ、カリン糖等の熱媒体として油脂を用いた食品、バター、マーガリン、マヨネーズ、ドレッシング、チョコレート、即席ラーメン、キャラメル、ビスケット、アイスクリーム等の油脂食品又は加工時に油脂を加えた食品、おかし、ハードビスケット、あんぱん等の加工仕上げ時に油脂を噴霧又は塗布した食品等であげることができる。

【0038】その他、例えばパン、めん類、ごはん、菓子類、豆腐およびその加工食品などの農産食品、清酒、薬用酒などの醸造食品、みりん、食酢、醤油、味噌、ドレッシング、ヨーグルト、ハム、ベーコン、ソーセージ、マヨネーズなどの畜産食品、かまぼこ、揚げ天、さんべんなどの水産食品、果汁飲料、清涼飲料、スポーツ飲料、アルコール飲料、茶などの飲料等も挙げることができる。

【0039】また、健康食品、機能性食品として用いる場合は、その形態は、下記医薬製剤や上記飲食品の形態でもよいが、例えば蛋白質(蛋白質源としてはアミノ酸バランスのとれた栄養価の高い乳蛋白質、大豆蛋白質、

卵アルブミン等の蛋白質が最も広く使用されるが、これらの分解物、卵白のオリゴペプチド、大豆加水分解物等の他、アミノ酸単体の混合物も使用される)、糖類、脂肪、微量元素、ビタミン類、乳化剤、香料等が配合された自然流動食、半消化態栄養食および成分栄養食や、ドリンク剤等の加工形態であってもよい。

【0040】本発明の飲食品は、本発明のトリグリセリドを所要量加えて、一般の製造法により加工製造することができる。その配合量は剤形、食品の形態、性状により異なり、一般的には0.001~50%が好ましい；が、特に限定されるものではない。また健康食品、機能性食品としての摂取は、本発明のトリグリセリドの1、3位に結合した高度不飽和脂肪酸の生理機能並びに力価に基づき、医師の食事箋による栄養士の管理の下に、病院給食の調理の際に、本発明の新規トリグリセリドを加え、その場で調製した機能性食品の形態で患者に与えることもできる。

【0041】本発明のトリグリセリドを医薬品として用いる場合、投与形態は経口投与または非経口投与が都合よく行われるものであればどのような形態であってもよく、例えば注射液、輸液、散剤、顆粒剤、錠剤、カプセル剤、腸溶剤、トローチ、内用液剤、懸濁剤、乳剤、シロップ剤、外用液剤、湿布剤、点鼻剤、点耳剤、点眼剤、吸入剤、軟膏剤、ローション剤、坐剤等を挙げることができ、これらを症状に応じてそれぞれ単独で、または組み合わせて使用することができる。

【0042】これら各種製剤は、常法に従って目的に応じて主薬に賦剤剤、結合剤、防腐剤、安定剤、崩壊剤、清沢剤、矯味剤などの医薬の製剤技術分野において通常使用しうる既知の補助剤を用いて製剤化することができる。またその投与量は、投与の目的、トリグリセリドの1、3位に結合させた脂肪酸(生体活性、力価等)や、投与対象者の状況(性別、年齢、体重等)によって異なるが、通常、成人に対して経口投与の場合、本発明の構造脂質の総量として、1日あたり0.01mg~10g、好ましくは0.1mg~2g、さらに好ましくは1mg~200mgの範囲で、また非経口投与の場合、本発明の構造脂質の総量として、1日あたり0.001mg~1g、好ましくは0.01mg~200mg、さらに好ましくは0.1mg~100mgの範囲で適宜調節して投与することができる。さらに、本発明のトリグリセリドは、今まで単独あるいは合成されていなかったトリグリセリドであり、分析用標準物質として使用することができる。

【0043】

【実施例】次に、実施例により、本発明をさらに具体的に説明する。なお、本実施例では、便宜的に脂肪酸およびトリグリセリドを次のような略号で示す。まず、脂肪酸を表す一文字略号には次のものを用いる。S:カプリル酸、P:パルミチン酸、A:アラキドン酸、M:ミード酸、D:ドコサヘキサエン酸。次に、トリグリセリ

ドを、1位に結合している脂肪酸を表す一文字略号、2位に結合している脂肪酸を表す一文字略号、3位に結合している脂肪酸を表す一文字略号により三文字で表記する。従って、トリグリセリドの構造は例えば次の例のように表記される。例:SP8(1位にカプリル酸、2位にパルミチン酸、3位にカプリル酸が結合したトリグリセリド)

【0044】実施例1.トリパルミチン(PPP)とカプリル酸の1:2(wt/wt)混液を基質原料として使用し、基質混液10.5gと固定化リゾムコール・ミハイ(Rhizomucormiehei)リパーゼ(ノボ・ノルディスク(株)製;リボザイムIM60)1.2gからなる反応液をねじ蓋付バイアル瓶に入れ、50℃で48時間反応(140回/分)しながらインキュベートした。反応後、固定化酵素だけを残して反応液を新しい基質混液と交換し、同じ条件下で反応を行った。固定化酵素を繰り返し使用しながら4回反応を行い、それぞれの反応液を回収した。

【0045】各反応液(10.5g)に70mlの0.5N KOH 溶液(20%エタノール溶液)を加え、100mlのヘキサンのグリセリド画分を抽出後、エバポレーターにより溶剤を除去してグリセリドを回収した。イアトロスキャン(ヤマトロン(株)社製)でグリセリド組成を調べた結果、1回目のグリセリド中には8%のジグリセリドが含まれていたが、2回目以降のグリセリド中の部分グリセリド含量は1%以下であった。2~4回目のグリセリド画分の脂肪酸組成(モル%)はカプリル酸45.1%及びパルミチン酸54.9%であった。

【0046】カプリル酸の交換率を高めるため、2~4回目のグリセリド画分を原料として再度エステル交換した。上記の反応に使用したリボザイム IM60 (1.2g)に、調製したグリセリド3.5gとカプリル酸7gを加え、30℃で48時間振盪しながら反応を行った(5回目)。反応後、反応液を新しい基質と交換して同じ条件下で反応を行った(6回目)。5、6回目の反応液からグリセリド画分をヘキサン抽出により回収した(合計4.8g)。得られたグリセリドの脂肪酸組成(モル%)はカプリル酸64.2%、パルミチン酸35.8%であった。このグリセリド中に含まれる部分グリセリドは1%以下であり、アセトン/アセトニトリル(1:1, vol/vol)を溶出溶媒としてODSカラム(Wakosil-II-III C18, 4.6 x 150mm, 2本)で分析した結果、SP8の純度は93%であった。

【0047】得られたSP8(3.5g)とアラキドン酸(純度90%)7gを原料とし、上記の反応に用いたリボザイム IM60 で30℃で48時間エステル交換反応を行い(7回目)、反応後の反応液をアルカリ条件下でヘキサン抽出し、グリセリド画分(4.8g)を得た。グリセリドの脂肪酸組成を分析したところ、カプリル酸、パルミチン酸、 γ -リノレン酸及びアラキドン酸は

それぞれ3.8、5、2.3、1、2、4及び3.4、0モル%であった。このグリセリドをアセトン/アセトニリル(1:1, vol/vol)を溶出溶媒としてODSカラム(SH-345-5, 20 x50mm, YMC(社)製)を用いた高速液体クロマトグラフィーにより分画した結果、8PAとAPAがそれぞれ0.72、0.44g得られた。

【0048】実施例2. 実施例1に記載した方法の100倍の規模で反応を行って8P8を調製し、原料として使用した。リゾプス・デレマール(Rhizopus delemar)のリパーゼ(田辺製薬(株)製;タリパーゼ)をJ. Ferment. Bioeng., 81, 299-303(1996)に従ってセラミックス担体SM-10(日本ガイシ(株)製)に固定化した。固定化酵素10g(31,000U/g)をカラムに充填した後、水飽和の大豆油:カプリル酸1:2(wt/wt)混合液を30℃、流速3ml/hrで100ml流し固定化酵素を活性化した。

【0049】次いで水を加えていない大豆油50mlを流して過剰水を除去した後、8P8とアラキドン酸エチルエステル(純度90%)の1:4(wt/wt)混液を同じ条件で流しながらエステル交換反応を行った。反応液100gを高真空下で蒸留してグリセリド画分を残渣として回収した後、実施例1に従ってアルカリ条件下でヘキササン抽出した。エバポレーターにより溶媒を除去し、ヘキササン抽出物35.7gを得た。このヘキササン抽出物に含まれているトリグリセリドと脂肪酸エステルの組成比をイイトロスキャンで分析したところ91:9であった。また、脂肪酸組成を分析した結果、カプリル酸、パルミチン酸、γ-リノレン酸、ジホモγ-リノレン酸及びアラキドン酸は、それぞれ2.4、4、3.4、5、1.5、2.6及び3.7、0モル%であった。

【0050】実施例3. 実施例1で用いた固定化リゾムコール・ミハイ(Rhizomucor miehei)リパーゼ(ノボ・ノルディスク(株)製;リボザイムIM60)に含まれている過剰の水を除去するために、該固定化酵素12g、SUNTGA-25(サントリー(株)製)80gからなる反応混液を100mlのねじ蓋付きバイアル瓶に入れ、30℃で48時間振盪しながら反応させた(1回目)。固定化酵素だけを反応器に残し、実施例2で作成した8P8(12g)とミード酸エチルエステル(純度90%)48gを加えて十分窒素置換した後、30℃で72時間振盪しながらエステル交換反応を行った(2、3回目)。

【0051】反応後、2回目と3回目の反応混液を合わせ、そのうち100gを実施例2と同様に、高真空下で蒸留してグリセリド画分を残渣として回収した。次いで、実施例1に従ってアルカリ条件下でヘキササン抽出し

した後、エバポレーターによりヘキサンを除去し、2.4、1gのグリセリド画分を得た。この中に含まれているトリグリセリドと脂肪酸エステルの組成比をイイトロスキャンで分析したところ92:8であった。実施例1に従って高速液体クロマトグラフィーを行い示差屈折計のピーク面積から脂肪酸エステルと各トリグリセリド成分を定量したところ、MPMは12、0%であった。

【0052】またこの画分の脂肪酸組成は、カプリル酸、パルミチン酸、ミード酸がそれぞれ3.1、2、35、7及び3.3、1モル%であった。エステル交換率を高めるために、得られたエステル交換トリグリセリドを再度ミード酸エチルエステルでエステル交換した。上記の固定化酵素にエステル交換トリグリセリド12gとミード酸エチルエステル48gを加えて30℃で72時間振盪しながら反応を行った(4回目)。反応後、反応液55gを上述した方法で蒸留し、12.3gのグリセリド画分を得た。この画分の脂肪酸組成は、カプリル酸、パルミチン酸及びミード酸がそれぞれ5、2、3.8、6及び5.8、1モル%であった。

20 【0053】実施例4. 実施例1で用いた固定化リゾムコール・ミハイ(Rhizomucor miehei)リパーゼ(ノボ・ノルディスク(株)製;リボザイムIM60)に含まれている過剰の水を除去するために、該固定化酵素2g、SUNTGA-25(サントリー(株)製)10gからなる反応混液を20mlのねじ蓋付きバイアル瓶に入れ、30℃で48時間振盪しながら反応させた(1回目)。固定化酵素だけを反応器に残し、実施例2で作成した8P8(12g)とSUNTGA-25を加水分解して得られた脂肪酸混液8gを加えて十分窒素置換した後、30℃で48時間振盪しながらエステル交換反応を行った(2〜5回目)。反応後、2〜5回目の反応混液からヘキササン抽出したグリセリドを合わせ、再度のエステル交換反応の基質とした。

30 【0054】上記の固定化酵素の入った反応器にエステル交換トリグリセリド2gとSUNTGA-25由来の脂肪酸混液10gを加え、30℃で48時間振盪しながら反応させた(6、7回目)。6、7回目の反応混液からグリセリド画分を抽出し、再々度のエステル交換反応の基質とし、同様に反応を行った(8回目)。エステル交換反応を3回繰り返すことにより得られたトリグリセリドを構成する脂肪酸組成、トリグリセリドの1、3位および2位の各脂肪酸組成をガスクロマトグラフィーにより分析した。この結果を表1に示す。

【0055】

【表1】

表1 (単位:モル%)

脂肪酸の種類	新規構造脂質		
	全体	1, 3 位	2 位
8 : 0	9	9	2
16 : 0	34	6	96
18 : 1 (n-7)	11	16	0
18 : 2 (n-6)	15	22	1
18 : 3 (n-6)	2	3	1
20 : 3 (n-6)	1	3	0
20 : 4 (n-6)	15	23	0

【0056】実施例5. 実施例1で得たAPAを標準物質として、人母乳中の全トリグリセリドに占めるAPAの割合を高速度液体クロマトグラフィーにより分析した。検出器には蒸発光散乱検出器 (DDL31, EUROSEP Instruments 製) を使用し、ODSカラム (COSMOSIL, 4.6 x 250mm, ナカライテスク社製) を用い、溶離液には、アセトン/アセトニトリル (1:1, vol/vol) からアセトン100%までのグラジエントを使用した。この結果、APAは人母乳中にその全トリグリセリドに占める割合が0.1~0.8重量%で存在していることが確認された。人の母乳中のアラキドン酸の含有量 (母乳中の油脂中の重量比で約0.5~1.0%) から、母乳中のアラキドン酸の10~50%がAPAとして存在していると考えられた。

【0057】実施例6. 粉ミルク100gに、実施例1で得られた新規構造脂質 (APAまたは8PA) 0.3gを混合することによりヒト母乳型トリグリセリド含有調製乳を調製した。この調製乳の全脂肪酸に対するアラキドン酸の割合は、APAを混合した場合には0.8%となり、8PAを混合した場合には0.4%となった。

【0058】実施例7. 実施例4と同様の手法により大量に調製し、油脂精製を施した新規構造脂質400g、精製卵黄レシチン48g、オレイン酸20g、濃グリセリン100g及び0.1N-苛性ソーダ40mlを加え、ホモジナイザーで分散させたのち、注射用蒸留水を加え全液量を4リットルとする。これを高圧噴霧式乳化機に

て乳化し、脂質乳液を調製した。該脂質乳液を200mlずつプラスチック製バッグに分注したのち、121℃、20分間、高圧蒸気滅菌処理して脂肪輸液剤とする。

【0059】実施例8. 実施例3で得られた新規構造脂質を、常法に従って乳濁性注射剤として調製した。乳濁性注射液中の新規構造脂質の含量は10% (W/V) であり、乳化剤として卵黄レシチン1.2% (W/V) を加え、更に血液と等張となるようにグリセリンにて浸透圧を調整した。

【0060】実施例9. 新生の雄豚 (体重>1kg) を1群8匹として無作為に4群に分けた (なお、同腹仔は別の群とした)。いずれの群も調製乳で飼育し、アラキドン酸含有トリグリセリドを調製乳に添加しない群 (調製乳群)、アラキドン酸含有トリグリセリドとしてSUN TGA-25 (サントリー (株) 製) を調製乳に1g/Lの濃度で添加した群 (SUN群)、実施例1の方法で得られたAPAを調製乳に0.4g/Lの濃度で添加した群 (APA群)、実施例1の方法で得られた8PAを調製乳に0.82g/Lの濃度で添加した群 (8PA群) の4群とした。SUN群、APA群、8PA群では調製乳中のアラキドン酸量がほぼ同じになるように調製した。表2にSUN TGA-25 (表中ではSUNと略記する)、APA、8PAの全脂肪酸の組成並びにトリグリセリドの2位の位置の脂肪酸組成を示す。

【0061】

【表2】

表2

脂肪酸	全脂肪酸			2位の脂肪酸		
	SUN	APA	8PA	SUN	APA	8PA
8:0	0	0	33.3	0	0	0
14:0	0.4	0	0	0	0	0
16:0	15.0	33.3	33.3	0.9	100.0	100.0
18:0	6.4	0	0	0	0	0
18:1 n-9	14.3	0	0	12.4	0	0
18:2 n-6	25.1	0	0	36.0	0	0
18:3 n-6	2.2	0	0	2.7	0	0
20:0	0.5	0	0	0.5	0	0
20:3 n-6	3.1	0	0	3.6	0	0
20:4 n-6	27.1	66.7	33.4	36.5	0	0
22:0	2.0	0	0	1.3	0	0
24:0	3.9	0	0	6.1	0	0

脂肪酸は(炭素数:二重結合の数)で表す。16:0, パルミチン酸; 18:0, ステアリン酸; 18:1 n-9, オレイン酸; 18:2 n-6, リノール酸; 18:3 n-6, γ -リノレン酸; 20:3 n-6, ジホモ- γ -リノレン酸; 20:4 n-6, アラキドン酸

【0062】投与18日目に10-12時間絶食後、採血し、肝臓および肺を抽出した(分析までは-80℃で保存した)。血漿、肝臓中の脂肪酸組成は、調製乳中に存在する脂肪酸の影響を受け、調製乳群と比較して、SUN群、APA群、8PA群の各群のアラキドン酸の含有率は高くなったものの、SUN群、APA群、8PA群*

*の各群間で有意な差は認められなかった。これは、食事性の脂肪酸の影響を直接受ける組織であるからと考えられる。そこで、次に、肺のリン脂質の脂肪酸組成を分析した。結果を表3に示す。

【0063】

【表3】

表3

脂肪酸	肺リン脂質の脂肪酸組成			
	調製乳群	SUN群	APA群	8PA群
16:0	31.0±0.5	29.2±0.3	30.3±0.4	32.7±0.5
18:0	13.4±0.2	13.2±0.3	11.6±0.5	12.5±0.4
18:1 n-9	23.7±0.5	23.0±0.2	22.8±0.4	23.1±0.3
18:2 n-6	12.1±0.3	12.7±0.2	12.4±0.3	12.6±0.2
20:4 n-6	8.1±0.2	9.1±0.1	10.5±0.3	10.2±0.2
22:5 n-3	2.2±0.1	2.1±0.1	2.4±0.2	1.9±0.1
22:6 n-3	0.8±0.1	0.7±0.1	0.8±0.1	0.8±0.1

【0064】肺のリン脂質の脂肪酸組成では、アラキドン酸の割合に有意な差が認められた。調製乳群と比べてSUN群の肺リン脂質中に占めるアラキドン酸の割合が高くなることは予想できる。しかし、同じアラキドン酸量が含まれているにもかかわらず、APA群並びに8P

A群の肺リン脂質中に占めるアラキドン酸の割合は、SUN群と比較しても有意に上昇した。この結果は、本発明の構造脂質のトリグリセリドの位置特性によるものと考えられる。

フロントページの続き

(51)Int.Cl.⁷

識別記号

C 0 7 C 69/30

G 0 1 N 33/50

// C 1 2 P 7/64

F I

G 0 1 N 33/50

C 1 2 P 7/64

A 2 3 D 9/00

キーワード (参考)

F

5 1 6

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 965 578 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
22.12.1999 Bulletin 1999/51

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **C07C 69/587, A61K 31/23,
A23L 1/30, A23D 9/00**

(21) Application number: **99304789.3**

(22) Date of filing: **18.06.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(54) **Novel triglyceride and composition comprising the same**

(57) The present invention provides a novel triglyceride and a composition containing that novel triglyceride having a triglyceride structure of the human breast milk type, which triglyceride has a saturated fatty acid having 16-18 carbon atoms at the position 2, at the po-

sition 1 and/or 3; which is and at least one $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acid manufactured by subjecting a glyceride in which a saturated fatty acid having 16 to 18 carbon atoms is bonded at position 2 to transesterification using a lipase and a $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid.

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a novel triglyceride and a composition comprising the same, and more particularly, to a triglyceride having a saturated fatty acid having 16 to 18 carbon atoms at the position 2 of the triglyceride, and having a $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ and/or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acids at the positions 1 and/or 3.

2. Related Art

[0002] The majority of the lipids that so far obtained are neutral fats that comprise a mixture of triglycerides in which various fatty acids are randomly ester-bonded to the positions 1, 2 and 3 of the triglyceride. These lipids were shown to demonstrate different absorption properties and physiological activities according to differences in the bonding positions of the fatty acids. Lipids in which specific fatty acids are bonded to predetermined positions of triglyceride (structured lipids) have recently attracted considerable attention.

[0003] For example, Japanese Examined Patent Publication No. 4-12920 discloses a triglyceride having satisfactory digestion and absorption property in which a fatty acid having 8 to 14 carbon atoms is bonded to the position 2 of the triglyceride and fatty acids having 18 or more carbon atoms are bonded to the positions 1 and 3. In addition, since it is known that 2-monoglycerides are of a form that is most easily absorbed by the human body, Japanese Examined Patent Publication No. 5-87497 discloses a triglyceride in which a $\omega 3$ or $\omega 6$ highly unsaturated fatty acid having physiological function is bonded to the position 2, while saturated fatty acids easily hydrolyzable by enzymes of the digestive tract are bonded at the positions 1 and 3. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the relationship between the physiological properties and the structure of triglycerides in human breast milk having unsaturated fatty acids.

[0004] On the other hand, with respect to the physiological function of fatty acids, attention has focused in recent years on arachidonic acid and docosahexaenoic acid. These fatty acids are contained in human breast milk and have been reported to be useful in infant development (Advances in Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Research, Elsevier Science Publishers, 1993, pp. 261-264) and to be important in infant growth and brain development (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 90, 1073-1077 (1993), Lancet, 344, 1319-1322 (1994)).

[0005] Several official agencies have recommended intake values (premature infants: arachidonic acid: 80 mg/kg, docosahexaenoic acid: 40 mg/kg; normal infants: arachidonic acid: 20 mg/kg, docosahexaenoic acid: 20 mg/kg body weight/day (WHO-FAO (1994)). In several countries in Europe, premature infant formulas have been marketed that contain docosahexaenoic acid and arachidonic acid produced by fermentation blended as triglycerides. However, there have been no considerations given to the bonding positions of arachidonic acid and/or docosahexaenoic acid in the triglycerides added to these formulas.

[0006] The triglyceride structure in human breast milk is predicted to be such that there is a high proportion of triglycerides in which palmitic acid (16:0) is bonded to position 2 of the triglyceride, and a high proportion of triglycerides in which highly unsaturated fatty acid or medium chain fatty acid is bonded to positions 1 and 3 (Christie, W.W. (1988): The Positional Distribution of Fatty Acids in Triglycerides, Analysis of Oils and Fats, Hamilton, R.J. and Russell, J.B. eds., pp. 313-339, Elsevier Applied Science, London). However, these are merely suppositions based on the results of analysis of fatty acids in triglycerides, while isolation and structural analysis of triglycerides in human breast milk have not yet been attempted.

[0007] In addition, although triglycerides containing arachidonic acid produced by fermentation have been added to formula to allow fatty acid composition to more closely approximate the composition of human breast milk as previously described, since the structure of these triglycerides containing arachidonic acid is such that there is a high proportion of triglycerides in which palmitic acid and other saturated fatty acids are bonded at the positions 1 and 3 while unsaturated fatty acids are bonded at position 2 (J.J. Myher, A. Kuksis, K. Geher, P.W. Park and D.A. Diersen-Schade, Lipids, 31, pp. 207-215 (1996)), it is different from the structure of triglycerides hypothesized in human breast milk.

[0008] Thus, there is a strong desire to develop lipids surmised to have the glyceride structure of human breast milk, and more specifically, triglycerides reliably confirmed to have a structure in which saturated fatty acid having 16 to 18 carbon atoms is bonded at the position 2 of the triglyceride, while highly unsaturated fatty acids or medium chain fatty acids are bonded at positions 1 and 3.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] Thus, the object of the present invention is to provide a novel triglyceride having at the position 2 a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms, and at the positions 1 and 3 unsaturated fatty acids wherein at least one of these

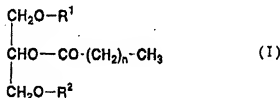
unsaturated fatty acids is a $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acid; or a novel triglyceride having at position 2 a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms, having at one of positions 1 and 3 a saturated fatty acid of 4 to 18 carbon atoms, and having at another position of the positions 1 and 3 a $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acid; and a composition containing this novel triglyceride.

[0010] As a result of earnest research to solve the above-mentioned problems, the inventors of the present invention found that triglyceride estimated to be of target human breast milk type can be manufactured starting from a glyceride clearly determined to have a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms at the position 2, allowing lipase that specifically acts on ester bonds at the positions 1 and 3 to act on said glyceride in the presence of $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acid or ester thereof, resulting in transesterification only at the positions 1 and 3, so as to obtain a triglyceride having at the position 1 and/or 3 $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acids. Moreover, by comparing the resulting triglyceride with triglyceride obtained from human breast milk, the present inventors also determined for the first time that triglyceride having a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms at the position 2 of the triglyceride and highly unsaturated fatty acids at the positions 1 and 3 is in fact present in human breast milk, thereby leading to completion of the present invention.

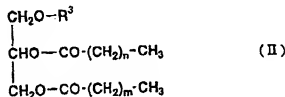
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0011] The present invention relates to a novel triglyceride, as well as a food composition, animal feed, therapeutic nutritional product and pharmaceutical composition comprising said triglyceride.

[0012] According to the present invention, there is provided a triglyceride represented with the following general formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 are acyl groups of unsaturated fatty acids having 18 to 22 carbon atoms, these acyl groups may be oxidized, and n represents an integer of 14 to 16, and at least one of R^1 or R^2 is a $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acid; or, a triglyceride represented with the following general formula (II):



wherein, R^3 represents an acyl group of an $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid having 18 to 22 carbon atoms, this acyl group may be oxidized, n represents an integer of 14 to 16, and m represents an integer of 2 to 16.

[0013] The fatty acid that is present at the positions 1 and/or 3 of the triglyceride of the present invention is $\omega 3$, $\omega 6$ and/or $\omega 9$ unsaturated fatty acid. More specifically, examples of the $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acids include:

9,12,15-octadecatrienoic acid (α -linolenic acid) [18:3, $\omega 3$];
6,9,12,15-octadecatetraenoic acid (stearidonic acid) [18:4, $\omega 3$];
11,14,17-eicosatrienoic acid (dihomo- α -linolenic acid) [20:3, $\omega 3$];
8,11,14,17-eicosatetraenoic acid [20:4, $\omega 3$], 5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoic acid [20:5, $\omega 3$];
7,10,13,16,19-docosapentaenoic acid [22:5, $\omega 3$]; and
4,7,10,13,16,19-docosahexaenoic acid [22:6, $\omega 3$].

[0014] In addition, examples of the $\omega 6$ unsaturated fatty acids include:

9,12-octadecadienoic acid (linoleic acid) [18:2, ω 6];
 6,9,12-octadecatrienoic acid (γ -linolenic acid) [18:3, ω 6];
 8,11,14-eicosatrienoic acid (dihomo- γ -linolenic acid) [20:3 ω 6];
 5,8,11,14-eicosatetraenoic acid (arachidonic acid) [20:4, ω 6];
 7,10,13,16-docosatetraenoic acid [22:4, ω 6] and
 4,7,10,13,16-docosapentaenoic acid [22:5, ω 6].

[0015] Moreover, examples of the ω 9 unsaturated fatty acids include:

6,9-octadecadienoic acid [18:2, ω 9];
 8,11-eicosadienoic acid [20:2, ω 9]; and
 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (Mead acid) [20:3, ω 9].

[0016] Moreover, acyl residues may be hydroxylated, epoxidized or hydroxyepoxidized acyl residues.

[0017] The fatty acid that is present at the position 2 of the novel triglyceride of the present invention is a fatty acid having 16 to 18 carbon atoms, examples of which include palmitic acid (16:0) and stearic acid (18:0).

[0018] Representative triglycerides of the present invention include:

1,3-diarachidonyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-docosahexaenoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1,3-didocosahexaenoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-3-docosahexaenoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-docosahexaenoyl-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1,3-bis(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1,3-bis(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride, and
 1-docosahexaenoyl-3-(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride.

[0019] The novel triglyceride of the present invention can be manufactured by allowing lipase that specifically acts on the ester bonds at the positions 1 and 3 of triglyceride to act on a triglyceride having a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms bonded at the position 2, resulting in transesterification with an ω 6, ω 9 or ω 3-unsaturated fatty acid or ester thereof.

[0020] Although examples of triglyceride having a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms bonded at the position 2 include tripalmitin (in which palmitic acid (16:0) is bonded at the positions 1, 2 and 3) and tristearin (in which stearic acid (18:0) is bonded at the positions 1, 2 and 3), it is not necessary for all the ester-bonded fatty acids in the triglyceride to be the same. Any fatty acid or any combination of fatty acids having 4 to 18 carbon atoms may be bonded to positions 1 or 3 provided a saturated fatty acid having 16 to 18 carbon atoms is bonded at the position 2 of the triglyceride.

[0021] Since oil or fat having saturated fatty acids of 16 or more carbon atoms for their constituent fatty acids have a high melting point, it may be necessary to raise the reaction temperature. For example, in the case of using tripalmitin, although varying according to the composition of the reaction mixture, the reaction might have to be carried out at 50 to 70°C. However, such a high temperature could be cause inactivation of enzyme and denaturation of unsaturated fatty acid added for the transesterification. Therefore, it is preferred that starting oil or fat having at the positions 1 and/or 3 low-melting point fatty acids of 8 to 12 carbon atoms, oleic acid, linoleic acid etc. is used for transesterification and that the transesterification is carried out at a temperature of 45°C or lower.

[0022] Triglyceride of the present invention having at the position 2 a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms can have at any of the positions 1 and 3 an ω 6, ω 9 or ω 3-unsaturated fatty acid. A triglyceride having a ω 6, ω 9 or ω 3-unsaturated fatty acid at only one of the position 1 and 3 can be converted to a corresponding triglyceride having same or different ω 6, ω 9 or ω 3-unsaturated fatty acids at both of the positions 1 and 3.

[0023] For example, triglycerides having saturated fatty acid at the position 2 and unsaturated fatty acid at one of the positions 1 and 3 can be obtained by culturing the genus *Cryptocodinium*, *Thraustochytrium*, *Schizochytrium*, *Ulkenia*, *Japonochytrium* or *Haliphthoros*.

[0024] From said triglycerides, for example, 1,2-dipalmitoyl-3-docosahexaenoyl triglyceride can be isolated. When a 1 and 3-positions-specific lipase acts on said glyceride resulting in transesterification with a ω 6, ω 9 or ω 3-unsaturated fatty acid or an ester thereof, the docosahexaenoyl at the position 3 is not transesterified while only palmitate at the

position 1 is transesterified to provide a triglyceride having a $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid at the position 1, palmitic acid at the position 2 and docosahexaenoic acid at the position 3. More particularly, if arachidonic acid is used as said unsaturated fatty acid to be transesterified, a triglyceride having arachidonic acid at the position 1, palmitic acid at the position 2 and docosahexaenoic acid at the position 3 is obtained.

[0025] In the present invention, lipase that specifically acts on the positions 1 and 3 of triglyceride can be used as catalyst. Although there are no particular limitations on this lipase, examples include lipase produced by a microorganism belonging to the genus *Rhizopus*, *Rhizomucor*, *Mucor*, *Penicillium*, *Aspergillus*, *Humicola* or *Fusarium*, as well as porcine pancreatic lipase. Commercially available products can also be used for said lipase.

[0026] Examples of commercially available lipase include lipase of *Rhizopus delemar* (Tanabe Pharmaceutical, Dailipase), lipase of *Rhizomucor miehei* (Novo Nordisk, Ribozyme IM), lipase of *Aspergillus niger* (Amano Pharmaceutical, Lipase A), lipase of *Humicola lanuginosa* (Novo Nordisk, Lipolase), lipase of *Mucor javanicus* (Amano Pharmaceutical, Lipase M) and lipase of *Fusarium heterosporum*. These lipases may be used in their native form, or in the form of lipase that has been immobilized to cellulite, ion exchange resin or a ceramic carrier.

[0027] The amount of water added to the reaction system is extremely important. Transesterification does not proceed in the absolute absence of water, while if the amount of water is too much, hydrolysis occurs, the triglyceride recovery rate decreases, or spontaneous acyl group transfer occurs in a partially acylated glyceride resulting in transfer of the saturated fatty acid at the position 2 to the position 1 or 3. Thus, when using an immobilized enzyme that does not have bonded water, it is effective to first activate the enzyme using a substrate to which water has been added before carrying out the reaction, and then use a substrate to which water is not added during the reaction. In order to activate the enzyme in batch reactions, a substrate containing water at 0 to 1,000% (wt%) of the amount of added enzyme should be used to pretreat the enzyme, and in the case of activating by a column method, a water-saturated substrate should be allowed to continuously flow through the column.

[0028] For example, the amount of water in a batch reaction for activating lipase of *Rhizopus delemar* (Tanabe Pharmaceutical, Dailipase) immobilized on cellulite or a ceramic carrier is 10 to 200% (wt%) of the amount of enzyme added. However, the amount of water required for activation of an enzyme for the transesterification reaction is greatly influenced by the type of enzyme used. For example, water is not substantially required if lipase of *Rhizomucor miehei* (Novo Nordisk, Lipozyme IM) is used, and rather, any excess water must be removed. Excess water should be removed by hydrolyzing a triglyceride that does not impair the primary reaction for the substrate.

[0029] The amount of lipase used in a batch reaction may be determined according to the reaction conditions. Although there are no particular limitations on the amount of lipase, 1 to 30% (wt%) of the reaction mixture is suitable when using, for example, lipase of *Rhizopus delemar* or lipase of *Rhizomucor miehei* immobilized on cellulite or a ceramic carrier.

[0030] Transesterification in a batch reaction is performed according to the method described below. Namely, an $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acid or an ester thereof is added to triglyceride having a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms bonded at the position 2. Examples of fatty acid esters that can be used include methyl esters, ethyl esters, propyl esters and butyl esters. The triglyceride/fatty acid or triglyceride/fatty acid ester ratio used as starting materials is suitably 1:0.5-20. A suitable amount of activated or dehydrated lipase that specifically acts on positions 1 and 3 (normally 5,000 to 50,000 U/g; 1 U of lipase is the amount of enzyme that releases 1 μ mol of fatty acid per minute using olive oil as substrate) is added to the substrate followed by carrying out transesterification for 2 to 100 hours at 20 to 72°C while stirring or shaking.

[0031] The above-mentioned immobilized enzyme can be used repeatedly. Namely, the reaction can be continued by leaving the immobilized enzyme in a reaction vessel after reaction and replacing the reaction mixture with freshly prepared reaction mixture comprising substrate. In addition, for transesterification by a column method, a reaction mixture containing substrate be allowed to flow continuously at the rate of 0.05 to 20 ml/hr per gram of enzyme.

[0032] In addition, the content of target triglyceride can be increased by performing transesterification repeatedly. Namely, lipase specifically acting on the positions 1 and 3 of triglyceride is allowed to act in the presence of an $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acid or an ester thereof to obtain a reaction mixture in which fatty acids at positions 1 and 3 are transesterified to provide $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ and/or $\omega 3$ unsaturated fatty acids.

[0033] Next, triglyceride is purified from said reaction mixture according to a method to be described later, and transesterification is again performed with $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid or an ester using said purified triglyceride as starting material. The content of the target triglyceride can be dramatically increased by repeating this transesterification, and transesterification should preferably be repeated 2 to 5 times.

[0034] In transesterification using a conventional immobilized lipase, a fatty acid acyl group bonded at the position 2 of partially esterified glyceride formed by hydrolysis that occurs as a side reaction is transferred to another position. In the present invention, however, hydrolysis can be nearly completely suppressed and the amount of partially esterified glyceride formed is about 1%, thereby solving the problem of the prior art. In addition, if the water content contained in the substrate is no more than several thousand ppm, hydrolysis that occurs as a side reaction can be ignored, and precise control of the water content in the substrate is not necessary.

[0035] Moreover, in contrast a decrease of enzyme activity after several uses in reactions in organic solvent or reactions at 50°C or above using an immobilized enzyme in a conventional process, inactivation of enzyme does not occur in a reaction system of the present invention wherein the reaction is carried out at 45°C or lower, and does not use organic solvent, making it possible to use the enzyme more than 20 times in batch reactions, and for more than 100 days in column reactions.

[0036] Due to the use of a simple substrate in the present invention, triglycerides obtained from the reaction comprises a few molecules species. Therefore, the target triglyceride can easily be isolated by routine methods such as liquid chromatography, molecular distillation, downstream membrane fractionation or vacuum superfractionation or a combination thereof. The triglycerides manufactured in the present invention are triglycerides in which unsaturated fatty acid is bonded at the positions 1 and/or 3, and said triglycerides exist in a form of mixture with unreacted starting glycerides, unreacted unsaturated fatty acid or ester thereof, and fatty acids or esters thereof released by transesterification from the positions 1 and/or 3 of the starting triglyceride formed.

[0037] Therefore, purification of the target triglyceride having unsaturated fatty acids bonded at the positions 1 and/or 3 and a saturated fatty acid of 16 to 18 carbon atoms bonded at the position 2 can be performed by alkaline deacidulation, steam distillation, molecular distillation, downstream membrane fractionation, vacuum superfractionation, column chromatography, solvent extraction or membrane separation, or a combination thereof so as to remove the above-mentioned fatty acids released by the transesterification and unreacted unsaturated fatty acids.

[0038] Since a triglyceride obtained in the present invention having a palmitic acid moiety bonded at the position 2 and arachidonic acid and/or docosahexaenoic acid moieties at the positions 1 and 3 is considered to have the same structure of triglyceride as in human breast milk, it can be effectively used for premature infant formula, infant formula, milk supplement, or formula for pregnant or lactating women. Namely, a triglyceride of the present invention having palmitic acid at the position 2 and arachidonic acid and/or docosahexaenoic acid at the positions 1 and/or 3 may be added to the manufacturing process or finished product of a formula such as premature infant formula, infant formula or milk supplement, a formula so as to obtain products more closely approximates human breast milk.

[0039] The present invention provides not only triglycerides having the same $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acids at the positions 1 and 3, which is the same structure as triglycerides in human breast milk and useful for a source of $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ and $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acids, but also triglycerides having different $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid moieties at the positions 1 and 3, such as triglyceride having a $\omega 6$ -unsaturated fatty acid such as arachidonic acid at the position 1 and a $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid such as docosahexaenoic acid at the position 3, which is more useful as a source of unsaturated fatty acids because one triglyceride molecule provides two different unsaturated fatty acids.

[0040] In addition to formula for administration to premature infants and infants, other possible uses of the triglycerides of the present invention include addition to milk, soy bean milk and other dairy products as well as addition to products using oils or fats. Examples of products using oils or fats include natural foods such as meat, fish and nut oils and fats, Chinese food, noodles, soups and other foods to which oil or fat is added during preparation, Japanese deep-fried food, fried foods, deep-fried bean curd, fried rice, doughnuts, deep-fried confections and other foods that use oil or fat as a heating medium, butter, margarine, mayonnaise, salad dressing, chocolate, instant noodles, caramel, cookies, ice cream and other oily foods or foods to which fats or oils are added during processing, and sweet bean jam-filled breads and other foods on which oil or fat is sprayed or coated during final processing.

[0041] Other examples include bread, noodles, rice, confections, their processed foods and other agricultural foods, rice wine, medicinal rice wine and other fermented foods, sweetened rice wine, vinegar, soy sauce, fermented bean paste, salad dressing, yogurt, ham, bacon, sausage, mayonnaise and other livestock food products, pressed fish, deep-fried seafood, fish cake and other marine food products, and fruit juices, soft drinks, sports drinks, alcoholic beverages, tea and other beverages.

[0042] In addition, in the case of using as health foods or functional foods, although the form may be that of the drug forms indicated below or the foods or beverages indicated above, they may be also be in a processed form such as natural liquid foods, semi-digested nutritional foods, component nutrient foods or drinks, containing proteins (although proteins such as milk protein, soy bean protein and egg white albumin having balanced amino acids and a high nutritional value are commonly used as protein sources, their decomposition products, egg white oligopeptides, soy bean hydrolysates or mixtures of individual amino acids may also be used), sugars, lipids, trace elements, vitamins, emulsifiers, fragrances and so forth.

[0043] Foods and beverages of the present invention can be processed and manufactured according to ordinary manufacturing methods by adding a prescribed amount of triglyceride of the present invention. The amount of addition varies according to drug form, food form and physical properties. Although the amount added is preferably 0.01 to 50% in general, there are no particular limitations on this amount. In addition, in the case of ingestion as a health food or functional food, triglyceride of the present invention can be administered to patients in the form of a functional food prepared locally by adding a novel triglyceride of the present invention during preparation of hospital foods under the supervision of a nutritionist in accordance with the dietary regimen prescribed by a physician based on physiological function and titer of highly unsaturated fatty acids bonded at positions 1 and 3 of triglyceride of the present invention.

[0044] In the case of using the triglyceride of the present invention as a pharmaceutical, the form of administration may be of any form provided oral or parenteral administration is suitably performed, examples of such forms include injection solutions, transfusion solutions, powders, granules, tablets, capsules, enteric coated pills, lozenges, internal liquid preparations, suspensions, emulsions, syrups, external liquid preparations, poultices, nose drops, inhalants, ointments, lotions and suppositories. These can be used either alone or in combination according to symptoms.

[0045] Each of these preparations can be prepared by using a known assistant that can be normally used in the field of pharmaceutical preparation technology, including vehicles, binders, antiseptics, stabilizers, decomposing agents, lubricants and correctives, with the primary drug according to the objective in accordance with routine methods.

[0046] Although the dose varies according to the objective of administration, the fatty acids bonded at the positions 1 and 3 of the triglyceride (physiological activity, titer, etc.) and the status of the patient receiving administration (sex, age, body weight, etc.), the normal adult dose in the case of oral administration is 0.01 mg to 10 g, preferably 0.1 mg to 2 g, and more preferably 1 mg to 200 mg, per day as the total amount of structured lipid of the present invention, and in the case of parenteral administration, 0.001 mg to 1 g, preferably 0.01 mg to 200 mg, and more preferably 0.1 mg to 100 mg, per day as the total amount of structured lipid of the present invention, and these doses can be suitably adjusted within the above ranges.

[0047] Moreover, the triglyceride of the present invention may be a triglyceride that has not previously been isolated or synthesized, and can be used as an analytical standard substance.

EXAMPLES

[0048] The following provides a detailed explanation of the present invention through its examples.

[0049] Furthermore, fatty acids and triglycerides are indicated with the following abbreviations in the present examples for the sake of convenience. To begin with, the following are used for single letter abbreviations representing fatty acids: B: caprylic acid, P: palmitic acid, A: arachidonic acid, M: Mead acid, D: docosahexaenoic acid. Next, triglycerides are described with three letters consisting of a single letter abbreviation representing the fatty acid bonded at the position 1, a single letter abbreviation representing the fatty acid bonded at the position 2, and a single letter abbreviation representing the fatty acid bonded at the position 3. Thus, the structure of triglycerides is described as shown in the following example: BPB (triglyceride having caprylic acid bonded at the position 1, palmitic acid bonded at the position 2, and caprylic acid bonded at the position 3).

Example 1

[0050] Using a 1:2 (wt/wt) substrate mixture of tripalmitin (PPP) and caprylic acid, a reaction mixture comprising 10.5 g of said substrate mixture and 1.2 g of *Rhizomucor miehei* immobilized lipase (Novo Nordisk, Lipzyme IM60) was placed in a screw-cap vial and incubated while shaking (140 times/minute) for 48 hours at 50°C. After reaction, the reaction mixture was replaced with a fresh substrate mixture while leaving only the immobilized enzyme, and the next reaction was carried out under the same conditions. The reaction was carried out for 4 cycles while repeatedly using the immobilized enzyme, and the respective reaction mixtures were collected.

[0051] 70 ml of 0.5 N KOH (20% ethanol solution) was added to each reaction mixture (10.5 g) and after extracting the glyceride fraction with 100 ml of hexane, the solvent was removed with an evaporator and the glyceride was recovered. As a result of testing the glyceride composition using Iyatrosan (Yatron), although 8% diglyceride was contained in the product of the first reaction cycle, the content of partially esterified glycerides in the glycerides of the second reaction cycle and thereafter was 1% or less. The fatty acid composition of the glyceride fractions of the 2nd to 4th reaction cycles was 45.1% caprylic acid and 54.9% palmitic acid.

[0052] Transesterification was repeated using the glyceride fractions of the 2nd to 4th reaction cycles as a starting material in order to enhance the exchange rate of caprylic acid. 3.5 g of the prepared glyceride and 7 g of caprylic acid were added to the Lipzyme IM60 (1.2 g) used in the above-mentioned reaction after which the reaction was carried out while shaking for 48 hours at 30 °C (5th cycle). After reaction, the reaction mixture was replaced with a fresh substrate mixture and the reaction was again carried out under the same conditions (6th cycle). The glyceride fractions were recovered from the 5th and 6th reaction mixtures by hexane extraction (total 4.8 g). The fatty acid composition of the resulting glyceride fraction (mol%) was 64.2% caprylic acid and 35.8% palmitic acid. The partially esterified glycerides contained in this glyceride fraction BPB accounted for 1% or less, and as a result of analyzing with an ODS column (Wakosil-II 3C18, 4.6 x 150 mm, two columns) using acetone/acetonitrile (1:1, vol/vol) for the elution solvent, the purity of BPB was determined to be 93%.

[0053] Transesterification was again carried out (7th cycle) for 48 hours at 30°C using the resulting BPB (3.5 g) and 7 g of arachidonic acid (purity: 90%) as starting materials with the Lipzyme IM60 used in the above-mentioned reactions. After reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with hexane under alkaline conditions to obtain a glyceride fraction (4.8 g). when the fatty acid composition of the glyceride fraction was analyzed, the contents of caprylic acid,

palmitic acid, γ -linolenic acid and arachidonic acid were 38.5, 23.1, 2.4 and 34.0 mol%, respectively. As a result of fractionating this glyceride by high-performance liquid chromatography using acetone/acetonitrile (1:1, vol/vol) for the elution solvent and an ODS column (SH-345-5, 20 x 500 mm, YMC), the amounts of 8PA and APA were 0.72 and 0.44 g, respectively.

Example 2

[0054] 8P8 was prepared by carrying out the reaction on a scale 100 times larger than the method described in Example 1, and used as a starting material.

[0055] *Rhizopus delemar* lipase (Tanabe Pharmaceutical, Talipase) was immobilized a ceramic carrier (SM-10, NGK) in accordance with the method described in J. Ferment. Bioeng., 81, 299-303 (1996). After filling a column with 10 g of the immobilized enzyme (31,000 U/g), 100 ml of a 1:2 (wt/wt) mixture of hydrated soy bean oil and caprylic acid was allowed to flow at a flow rate of 3 ml/hr at 30° C to activate the immobilized enzyme.

[0056] Next, 50 ml of soy bean oil free of water was allowed to flow and after removing the excess water, a 1:4 (wt/wt) mixture of 8P8 and arachidonic acid ethyl ester (purity: 90%) was subjected to transesterification while allowing to flow under the same conditions. 100 g of reaction mixture was distilled under a high vacuum, and after collecting the glyceride fraction as residue, it was extracted with hexane under alkaline conditions in accordance with Example 1. The solvent was then removed with an evaporator to obtain 35.7 g of hexane extract. When the composition ratio of triglyceride and fatty acid ester contained in this hexane extract was analyzed with the Iyatroskan, the ratio was found to be 91:9. In addition, as a result of analyzing the fatty acid composition, the contents of caprylic acid, palmitic acid, γ -linolenic acid, dihomogamma-linolenic acid and arachidonic acid were 24.4, 34.5, 1.5, 2.6 and 37.0 mol%, respectively.

Example 3

[0057] In order to remove the excess water contained in the *Rhizomucor miehei* immobilized lipase (Novo Nordisk, Lipozyme IM80) used in Example 1, 100 ml of a reaction mixture comprising 12 g of said immobilized enzyme and 60 g of SUNTGA-25 (Suntory) was placed in a screw-cap vial and allowed to react while shaking for 48 hours at 30° C (1st cycle). After leaving only the immobilized enzyme, adding the 8P8 (12 g) prepared in Example 2 and 48 g of Mead acid ethyl ester (purity: 90%), and completely replacing the upper space in the vial with nitrogen, transesterification was performed twice while shaking for 72 hours at 30° C (2nd and 3rd cycles).

[0058] After reaction, the reaction mixtures from the 2nd and 3rd cycles were combined and 100 g of the combined reaction mixture used in the same manner as Example 2 to recover the glyceride fraction as residue after distilling under high vacuum. Next, after extracting with hexane under alkaline conditions in accordance with Example 1, the hexane was removed with an evaporator to obtain 24.1 g of glyceride fraction. When the composition ratio of triglyceride and fatty acid ester contained in this fraction was analyzed by Iyatroskan, the ratio was found to be 92:8. When the contents of fatty acid ester and each triglyceride were quantified from the peak area of a differential refractometer by performing high-performance liquid chromatography in accordance with Example 1, the MPM content was determined to be 12.0%.

[0059] The fatty acid composition of this fraction comprised caprylic acid, palmitic acid and Mead acid at 31.2, 35.7 and 33.1 mol%, respectively.

[0060] The resulting transesterified triglyceride was additionally transesterified with Mead acid ethyl ester to enhance the ester exchange rate. 12 g of transesterified triglyceride and 48 g of Mead acid ethyl ester were added to the above-mentioned immobilized enzyme and reacted while shaking for 72 hours at 30° C (4th cycle). After reaction, 55 g of reaction mixture was distilled using the method described above to obtain 12.3 g of glyceride fraction. The fatty acid composition of this fraction comprised caprylic acid, palmitic acid and Mead acid at 5.2, 38.6 and 56.1 mol%, respectively.

Example 4

[0061] In order to remove the excess water contained in the *Rhizomucor miehei* immobilized lipase (Novo Nordisk, Lipozyme IM60) used in Example 1, a reaction mixture comprising 2 g of said immobilized enzyme and 10 g of SUNTGA-25 (Suntory) was placed in a 20 ml screw-cap vial and reacted while shaking for 48 hours at 30° C (1st cycle). While leaving only the immobilized enzyme in the reaction vessel, 8P8 (12 g) prepared in Example 2 and 8 g of fatty acid mixture obtained by hydrolyzing SUNTGA-25 were added, followed by completely replacing with nitrogen and transesterification while shaking for 48 hours at 30° C (2nd-5th cycles). After reaction, glycerides extracted with hexane from the reaction mixtures of the 2nd through 5th cycles were combined and used as a substrate for additional transesterification.

[0062] 2 g of transesterified triglyceride and 10 g of fatty acid mixture derived from SUNTGA-25 were added to the

reaction vessel containing the above-mentioned immobilized enzyme and reacted while shaking for 48 hours at 30°C (6th and 7th cycles). The glyceride fractions were extracted from the reaction mixtures of the 6th and 7th cycles followed by reacting in a similar manner again using these as transesterification substrate (8th cycle). The fatty acid composition of triglyceride obtained by repeating transesterification three times as well as fatty acid composition at triglyceride positions 1 and 3 and at position 2 were analyzed. Those results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Types of Fatty Acids	(units: mol%)		
	Novel Structured Lipids		
	Overall	Positions 1,3	Position 2
8:0	9	9	2
16:0	34	6	96
18:1 (n-9)	11	16	0
18:2 (n-6)	15	22	1
18:3 (n-6)	2	3	1
20:3 (n-6)	1	3	0
20:4 (n-6)	15	23	0

Example 5

[0063] The proportion of APA in all triglycerides in human breast milk was analyzed by high-performance liquid chromatography using the APA obtained in Example 1 for a standard. An evaporating light scattering detector (DDL31, EUROSEP Instruments) was used as a detector along with an ODS column (Cosmosil, 4.6 x 250 mm, Nakaratesk), and a gradient from acetone/acetonitrile (1:1, vol/vol) to 100% acetone was used for as an eluent. As a result, the proportion of APA in all triglycerides in human breast milk was confirmed to be 0.1 to 0.6 wt%. Based on the content of arachidonic acid in human breast milk (approximately 0.5 to 1.0% based on the weight ratio in oils or fats of human breast milk), 10 to 50% of arachidonic acid in human breast milk was considered to be present as APA.

Example 6

[0064] A formula was prepared that contained human breast milk type triglyceride by mixing 0.3 g of novel structured lipid obtained in Example 1 (APA or 8PA) into 100 g of powdered milk. The proportion of arachidonic acid to total fatty acid in this formula was 0.8% in the case of mixing in APA and 0.4% in the case of mixing in 8PA.

Example 7

[0065] 400 g of the present triglyceride preparation prepared in large volume according to the same procedure as Example 4 and purified, 48 g of purified egg yolk lecithin, 20 g of oleic acid, 100 g of concentrated glycerin and 40 ml of 0.1 N sodium hydroxide were dispersed with a homogenizer, and distilled water for injection was added to the homogenate to bring to a total liquid volume of 4 liters. This was emulsified with a high-pressure spraying emulsifier to prepare a lipid emulsion. After filling 200 ml aliquots of said lipid emulsion into plastic bags, the plastic bags were sterilized using high-pressure steam for 20 minutes at 121°C to obtain a lipid transfusion agent.

Example 8

[0066] The triglyceride preparation obtained in Example 3 was formulated in a form of an emulsified injection preparation in accordance with routine methods. The content of the triglyceride preparation in the emulsified injection preparation was 10% (W/V). 1.2% (W/V) of egg yolk lecithin was added as emulsifier, and osmotic pressure was adjusted with glycerin so as to be isotonic with blood.

Example 9

[0067] Male newborn pigs (body weight > 1 kg) were randomly assigned to four groups of 6 animals (and siblings

were assigned to different groups). All groups were raised on formula. The four groups consisted of a group in which arachidonic acid-containing triglyceride was not added to the formula (formula group), a group in which SUNTGA-25 (Suntory) was added to the formula as arachidonic acid-containing triglyceride at a concentration of 1 g/liter (SUN group), a group in which the APA obtained by the method of Example 1 was added to the formula at a concentration of 0.4 g/liter (APA group), and a group in which the 8PA obtained by the method of Example 1 was added to the formula at a concentration of 0.82 g/liter (8PA group). The SUN, APA and 8PA groups were adjusted so that the amount of arachidonic acid in the formula was roughly equal. Table 2 indicates the composition of all fatty acids of SUNTGA-25 (abbreviated as SUN in the table), APA and 8PA along with the composition of fatty acids at triglyceride position 2.

Table 2

Fatty Acid	Total Fatty Acids			Fatty Acids at Position 2		
	SUN	APA	8PA	SUN	APA	8PA
8:0	0	0	33.3	0	0	0
14:0	0.4	0	0	0	0	0
16:0	15.0	33.3	33.3	0.9	100.0	100.0
18:0	6.4	0	0	0	0	0
18:1 n-9	14.3	0	0	12.4	0	0
18:2 n-6	25.1	0	0	36.0	0	0
18:3 n-6	2.2	0	0	2.7	0	0
20:0	0.5	0	0	0.5	0	0
20:3 n-6	3.1	0	0	3.6	0	0
20:4 n-6	27.1	66.7	33.4	36.5	0	0
22:0	2.0	0	0	1.3	0	0
24:0	3.9	0	0	6.1	0	0

Fatty acids are indicated as (number of carbon atoms: number of double bonds) and are represented as: 16:0 palmitic acid, 18:0 stearic acid, 18:1 n-9 oleic acid, 18:2 n-6 linoleic acid, 18:3 n-6 γ -linolenic acid, 20:3 n-6 dihomogamma-linolenic acid, 20:4 n-6 arachidonic acid.

[0056] After fasting the animals for 10 to 12 hours, on the 18th day of dosing, blood samples were collected, and the liver and lungs were excised (and stored at -80°C until analysis). The fatty acid compositions of plasma and liver were affected by fatty acids present in the formulas and when the formula groups were compared, although the arachidonic acid contents of the SUN, APA and 8PA groups were higher, there were no significant differences observed between these groups with respect to arachidonic acid content. This is believed to be because the tissues used were directly affected by dietary fatty acids. Therefore, the fatty acid composition of phospholipid in the lungs was analyzed. Those results are shown in Table 3.

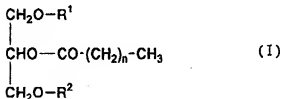
Table 3

Fatty Acid	Fatty Acid composition of Lung Phospholipid			
	Formula Group	SUN Group	APA Group	8PA Group
16:0	31.0 \pm 0.5	29.2 \pm 0.3	30.3 \pm 0.4	32.7 \pm 0.5
18:0	13.4 \pm 0.2	13.2 \pm 0.3	11.6 \pm 0.5	12.5 \pm 0.4
18:1 n-9	23.7 \pm 0.5	23.0 \pm 0.2	22.8 \pm 0.4	23.1 \pm 0.3
18:2 n-6	12.1 \pm 0.3	12.7 \pm 0.2	12.4 \pm 0.3	12.6 \pm 0.2
20:4 n-6	8.1 \pm 0.2	9.1 \pm 0.1	10.5 \pm 0.3	10.2 \pm 0.2
22:5 n-3	2.2 \pm 0.1	2.1 \pm 0.1	2.4 \pm 0.2	1.9 \pm 0.1
22:6 n-3	0.8 \pm 0.1	0.7 \pm 0.1	0.8 \pm 0.1	0.8 \pm 0.1

[0069] There were no significant differences in the proportions of arachidonic acid in the fatty acid composition of lung phospholipid. The proportion of arachidonic acid among lung phospholipids in the SUN group can be predicted to be higher than in the formula group. However, despite containing the same amount of arachidonic acid, the proportions of arachidonic acid among lung phospholipids in the APA and 8PA groups were significantly higher than in the SUN group. This result is considered to be due to the positional characteristics of the structured lipid triglyceride of the present invention.

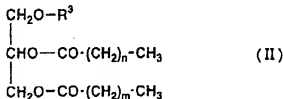
Claims

1. A triglyceride represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 are acyl groups of unsaturated fatty acids having 18 to 22 carbon atoms, these acyl groups may be oxidized, and n represents an integer of 14 to 16, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^2 is a $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid.

2. A triglyceride according to Claim 1, wherein the acyl group of R^1 and the acyl group of R^2 are different.
3. A triglyceride represented with the following general formula (II):



wherein R^3 represents an acyl group of an $\omega 6$, $\omega 9$ or $\omega 3$ -unsaturated fatty acid having 18 to 22 carbon atoms, this acyl group may be oxidized, n represents an integer of 14-16, and m represents an integer of 2-16.

4. A triglyceride as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the oxidized acyl group is a hydroxylated, epoxidated or hydroxyepoxidated acyl group.
5. A triglyceride as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the unsaturated fatty acid having 18 to 22 carbon atoms is an unsaturated fatty acid selected from the group consisting of:

9,12-octadecadienoic acid (linoleic acid) 18:2, $\omega 6$
6,9,12-octadecatrienoic acid (γ -linolenic acid) 18:3, $\omega 6$
8,11,14-eicosatrienoic acid (dihomo- γ -linolenic acid) 20:3 $\omega 6$
5,8,11,14-eicosatetraenoic acid (arachidonic acid) 20:4, $\omega 6$
7,10,13,16-docosatetraenoic acid 22:4, $\omega 6$
4,7,10,13,16-docosapentaenoic acid 22:5, $\omega 6$
6,9-octadecadienoic acid 18:2, $\omega 9$
8,11-eicosadienoic acid 20:2, $\omega 9$
5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (Mead acid) 20:3, $\omega 9$
9,12,15-octadecatrienoic acid (α -linolenic acid) 18:3, $\omega 3$
6,9,12,15-octadecatetraenoic acid (stearidonic acid) 18:4, $\omega 3$

11,14,17-eicosatrienoic acid (dihomo- α -linolenic acid) 20:3, ω 3
 8,11,14,17-eicosatetraenoic acid 20:4, ω 3
 5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoic acid 20:5, ω 3
 7,10,13,16,19-docosapentaenoic acid 22:5, ω 3, and
 4,7,10,13,16,19-docosahexaenoic acid 22:6, ω 3.

6. A triglyceride as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3 selected from the group consisting of the following triglycerides:

1,3-diarachidonyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-docosahexaenoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1,3-didocosahexaenoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-3-docosahexaenoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-docosahexaenoyl-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1,3-bis(dihomo- γ -linolenyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1,3-bis(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-3-octanoyl-2-palmitoyl triglyceride,
 1-arachidonyl-3-(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride, and
 1-docosahexaenoyl-3-(5,8,11-eicosatrienoyl)-2-palmitoyl triglyceride.

7. A food composition containing a triglyceride as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 6 according to special nutritional requirements.
8. A food composition as set forth in claim 7, wherein said food composition is a functional food, nutritional supplement food, premature infant formula, infant formula, baby food, pregnancy food or elderly food.
9. An animal feed containing a triglyceride as set forth in any of claims 1 through 6.
10. A therapeutic nutritional product containing at least one type of triglyceride as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 6 and a neutral carrier suitable for oral, intraintestinal or parenteral administration depending on the case.
11. A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one type of triglyceride as set forth in any of claims 1 through 6.
12. An analytical standard reagent comprising a triglyceride as set forth in any of claims 1 through 6.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 99 30 4789

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